

Present: Victor Garofalo, Richard Bowen, Steve Carluccio, Karen Dunn, Ben Thomas, Elizabeth McClung, Dave Powell, Paul Mortenson
Selectmen: Bill Moonan

Board of Health: Heidi Porter

- Budget is lower: nurses moved over to schools. All is well in that transition.
- \$881 over, then looked at grants, confident can get funding for some of it.
- Those grants are dwindling.
- We did not get \$8000 grant that we'd applied for. a little troubling.
- professional services for educational services for citizens of Bedford
- Tick testing and education, looking to go with regional program through U Rhode Island. Concord is using them. Tick Smart Towns.
- Ways to get people moving is active. Helped support bike master plan.
- Town money has gone towards mandated work, like inspections and permitting.
- Want to provide outreach on opioid epidemic. Look at data to see if we need to address families. Need a consultant for this.
- requesting 2K to join the URI tick bite prevention program
- 1500 for opioid epidemic, maybe some funds for suicide prevention talk
- Rich: \$4381 over guideline but it's 3500- a couple hundred dollars
- Heidi: need to add \$881 because of merit.
- Victor: merit was 3.5% and guideline was 2.5% so over guideline.
- Karen: any other areas you are looking to fold into operating budget?
- Heidi: additional printing costs, and emergency preparedness. Need to be able to inoculate entire community if anthrax is spread over community, for example.
- Funds from CDC and state are diminishing.
- our revolving account is helpful for paying for supplies
- Steve S: how do you find out about grants?
- Heidi: though memberships, networking, and foundations
- Dave: how are grants spent?
- Heidi: much targeted uses. Goes to stuff that is not mandated.
- Paul: do you know how many establishments are inspected? Are fees reviewed? Many fines?
- Heidi: around 120. Lots of inspections for temporary vendors. Look to compare with surrounding neighborhoods. If they go more than twice without passing inspection, they are brought in for a hearing. We never done a revocation, but have had them hire an outside food consultant.
- Paul: are there a few establishments that result in lots of inspections? No
- Ben: are there opportunities to collaborate with other towns?
- Yes, will be with Concord in the URI program. May pull in Carlisle, Lexington, and Lincoln in the future.
- Ben: impact of having nurses move out?

Finance minutes 1/21/16

- None really. Frees up some time.
- Steve: any emergency preparedness with towns? No
- Elizabeth: any grants that have come and gone without trying to incorporate the programs into the town budget?
- tobacco inspections ("stings") have come and gone
- Pedestrian and bike master plan from the work done in a grant that ended.
- Steve S: so you're looking for \$4381 over guideline.

Library: Richard Callaghan

Mike Pulizzi

Noreen O'Gara

- Budget approved by trustees meet the guideline. Not many changes. Went to personnel or merit increase. Helps that there is no electricity or natural gas.
- Once run by Library Corporation, but still administers the funds and Victor invests the funds. Funds from 1895.
- Around 30K in fines. First 17K goes to town, the rest go to the library.
- Corporation funds have been subsidizing some of the needs that are unfunded by the town.
- 335K items lent out last year. About 200K people in and out of library. Use of facility is growing, circulation is down a little. Meeting rooms fully booked. That's one of our bigger problems now.
- Children's room coverage is not as good as we would like. A little thin there still. Spanish story time and Chinese story time collaboration with the high school. Collaboration needs a lot of time. Time for mentoring.
- Has self-check-out been helpful? Just gives people more options. Has relieved some pressure at the desk.
- Much turnover? We've been stable this past year, the year before there was more. We have a lot of part-time people. We've had people leave for benefitted positions in nearby towns.
- How difficult to replace? Getting fewer applicants with some jobs because of opportunities elsewhere. We're less competitive. Other towns pay time and a half on Sundays. Not competitive with pay.
- Victor: we are increasing the salary bylaw. Looking to increase in places that are out of line with other surrounding communities. Will have a consultant come in after.
- Open positions now? substitute reference librarian, someone to fill in
- We didn't increase the book budget much because there wasn't much left over after salaries. Computer hardware or software goes up. We use other grant funds to supplement that. We always have done that.
- What challenges are coming up? Managing space. What people coming in need. Study room space needed. Conference room is used all the time, day and night. The meeting room there is a charge for. About \$15 per hour for custodian. now restrictions: an organization can only can use 4x per year

Finance minutes 1/21/16

- Are you spending out of your funds at a sustainable rate? Trying to spend around 5%. Some years we don't need to spend it. Managing these funds for the long run. We've always used those funds to supplement what the library does.
- What impact does increase in school population have on you? It's the before school issue, and also Wednesday afternoons. *Need 20 hr. /week to work with the young ones and then also the teens. Children and youth services part-timer would help with programming and services.*
- Benefit to moving some to full time? Yes and no. easier to staff on weekends with part-timers.
- Second only to Weston in circulation.
- Open 69 hours a week. *Would open longer if they had more money.*
- Last year leaks? Covered by insurance.
- EBooks? Demand has stabilized. Will always have a demand for print.

Meetings Attended:

- Schools
-
- Passed guidelines on revolving funds. Rumor was they're coming in at guideline.
- Will get line item budget in drop box.
- Preregistration shows 40 more kindergarteners than last year. In the 170s. Not a reliable number though. Premature.
- community preservation:
- Steve C: if town money for private historical projects must be criteria based.
- public hearing on Tuesday about this
- planning board:
- New industrial mixed use, on Crosby Drive. Improving access, and a hotel. "Select services" hotel 120-150 rooms. To service the businesses in Crosby Drive area. Proposed to be very close to Crosby Drive, and wants height variance. Wants 60-70 feet high, not 53 feet. Planning drive worried about combination of height and location close to the road. Limited scope for the hotel.
- May put industrial rezoning into three different amendments. Most impact on Crosby, and some on Wiggins. Trying to make it more flexible. Also trying to determine how to measure height.

BLT:

- Looking at expanding transit opportunities in town. BLT is on demand for seniors. Runs from 9-3. Trying to find for 105K outsourcing service. It's a pilot. Target is to complement, not compete, with BLT. Maybe for after school.
- Selectmen's
- contingencies coming forward from Rick Reed

Finance minutes 1/21/16

- Compensation wage schedule adjustment proposed. 6% increase proposed. Moves the lines. 2% additional adjustment also suggested. Could be reclassifications should be done, more detailed analysis needed.
- Audit came through. Would be helpful to hear how they evaluate the town. What metrics are used?
- 29 articles now.
- Future:
- Taissir is coming in twice: with Town Manager re: utilities budget
- then later about 20 year plan
- Rich: consider idea of not having an override for the \$2M school project. 160K in the first year, interest and principle. We should not assume it should be an override. Saves 10K with no special election. With overrides the voters might balk. We might have enough capacity to not override. If we do it under the cap. Why do debt exclusion override? Want a proactive decision.
- Victor: funding can be changed on town floor
- Steve C: we can borrow within the levy

Ben to adjourn

Dave: second

8-0-0

10:28